Export of sugar machinery to South Africa

2396. SHRI MOOL CHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Sugar and General Engineering Corporation has become the first Indian sugar machinery supplier to make a dent in the Central African Region;

(b) if so, whether it has bagged an order of over $5 million (Rs. 26.5 crore) for setting up an integrated sugar plant near Lusaka in Zambia;

(c) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the efforts being made to approach other countries in setting up of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) As per information available, the Indian Sugar and General Engineering Corporation (ISGEC) has bagged an order of over $5 million (Rs. 26.5 crores) for setting up an integrated sugar plant near Lusaka in Zambia.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) According to ISGEC, the contract covers supply of complete machinery for a 1500 TCD sugar plant and supervision of erection and commissioning. The scheduled date of commissioning is 31.3.2003 subject to availability of L/C.

(e) Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) has taken number of steps for promotion of project exports and export of capital machinery to various countries in Africa. In fact, they have organized wholly Indiatech exhibitions in Kenya, Nigeria and Egypt in which many manufacturers of capital machinery displayed their machinery and received good response. EEPC have also organised Buyer-Seller Meets in Nigeria and Ghana for promotion of export of Indian machinery and project exports. EEPC has also organized an AFRO INDIA TRADE & INVESTMENT MEET in New Delhi in which a large number of businessmen from several African

countries were invited and had one to one meetings with Indian manufacturers of capital machinery.

Under Focus Africa Programme, they are planning to hold Indiatech exhibitions in Ethiopia and South Africa for projecting the Indian capabilities in the field of capital machinery and project exports.

Uniform grain procurement policy

†2397.SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received a suggestion regarding formulation of a uniform grain procurement policy;

(b) if so, Government's, reaction thereto; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM-RAJU): (a) The present policy of Minimum Support Prices and procurement of Fair Average Quality standard of food grains is being implemented with the help of the State Governments uniformly in all States which have potential for procurement.

The High Level Committee constituted to formulate a Long Term Grain Policy has also recommended that the MSP Policy should continue with an immediate correction.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Liquidation of surplus foodgrains

2398. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which Government have been able to liquidate surplus foodgrains stocks through exports and food assistance to other countries during the last year; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.